

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Congratulations on your new role as Governor of our great state and thank you for your service as Lieutenant Governor over the past 8 years.

We thank you for your immediate action upon your swearing in to extend New York's eviction moratorium, as well your mask mandate across the state, and your sense of urgency on nominating and confirming individuals to the Cannabis Control Board. Marijuana social equity will be pivotal in moving our state forward. Shortly after, the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida severely damaged our state and you swiftly led in requesting and securing a Major Disaster Declaration to make available badly needed federal assistance to our constituents. In a short period, you have demonstrated a commitment to serving all New Yorkers. As our students, teachers, and school communities embark on a very challenging return to school, it's imperative we empower education leaders who share your commitment.

As you know, multiple sources of federal pandemic relief have either expired, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) enacted under the CARES Act. Additional federal pandemic relief enacted at the end of December 2020, such as increased SNAP benefits, paid sick leave, and paid family and medical leave tax credits will expire at the end of September. The U.S. Supreme Court's August 26, 2021 decision to strike down President Biden's CDC eviction moratorium put even more New Yorkers in immediate danger as a revolving eviction crisis continues across the country. A nationwide eviction crisis is a significant threat to a safe and sustainable return to in-person learning. It cannot be understated that every facet of a child's life has been impacted by the pandemic, potentially exposing them to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Because a suite of federal resources is not, or will soon not be, available, we believe it is important that New York has strong educational leadership in place. We believe that we have that strong

educational leadership in Dr. Betty Rosa, Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York, and Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents.

As members of Congress, we hear directly from the New York families we represent about their hopes and concerns for their child's education. From our constituents, we believe we need state education leaders who have experience effectively serving high need populations with increased access to high-quality STEM education, curriculum development and implementation, social-emotional learning, parent engagement, interagency collaboration, and supports for students with disabilities, as well as supports for students who are English language learners.

Given their decades of experience directly serving students as teachers, school leaders, and district leaders, we have every confidence that Dr. Rosa and Dr. Young are the education leaders who can develop an education budget that meets the needs of all New York students and lead us through the many challenges exacerbated by the pandemic into a future for the betterment of us all, but most importantly our children.

We thank you in advance for your leadership and we look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress